

the RARS

Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

October 2005, Number 415

PIGSKIN PREVIEW



The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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OFFICERS

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 ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org



FRONT COVER PICTURES

The Pigskin Preview was held on August 13th at Carter Finley Stadium. There were four teams on the field at any one time. The heat and humidity was so high that a 3-5 minute water break was needed between each 10 minute playing session.

The pictures in the middle are Denyse K4DAW with coordinator of the event Kelly. The middle picture is Dick KD4ISC and Jim K4FIJ with the coordinators Kelly and Miller.

The picture to the right is Jim K4FIJ with the coordinator of the event Kelly.

RARS DUES

RARS dues are now due for 2005. You can pay online at the RARS website: www.rars.org, or send a check to

Greg Seamster KE4PAX
1405 Leanne Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: **Every first Tuesday of the Month**
Location: **Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh**
Time: **7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.**

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET— Saturday evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm RARS net

Announcements



NEXT RARS MEETING:
Tuesday, October 4, 2005 7:00 pm
ANNUAL AUCTION

AUTISM SOCIETY

The Autism Society of NC has contacted RARS and asked for communications support for their 7th Annual Autism Ribbon Run. The event will be held on Saturday, October 8th at 9am in downtown Raleigh. RARS has supported this event for several years. Check out http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/html/ribbon_run.html for details on the run.

Coordinator is Ron Ford, W4RJF is the coordinator. Contact Ron at w4rjf@nc.rr.com to volunteer.

OPERATORS NEEDED FOR STATE FAIR

This year's State Fair is only 51 days away (October 14-23). RARS has been asked to coordinate radio operators (hams and non-hams) to handle the radio communications at the Red Cross First Aid base station. We're in need of a coordinator for this event... someone to recruit, schedule and distribute info to volunteers. Interested? Send me an email to kd4isc@arrl.net and I will get you set up with the First Aid staff.

RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30pm., and things usually wind down by 8pm or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

October 9	Maysville, NC
October 29	Myrtle Bch, NC
November 20	Benson, NC
December 3	Gastonia, NC
January 6, 2006*	Winston-Salem
February 19*	Richmond, VA
February 25	Elkin, NC
March 5*	Kinston, NC
March 11-12	Charlotte, NC
April 2	Kinston, NC
April 15*	Morganton, NC
April 23	RALEIGH, NC
April 28-29*	Charlotte, NC
May 13*	Eden, NC

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal

*Date is not confirmed



LOOKing Back 30 Years

From the October 1975 Exciter

A ham with the Parkview Rescue Mission in Durham volunteered hams for use in helping Rescue and Emergency Medical Evacuation (EME) elements in four counties participate in operations involving simulated tornadoes. The response was typically efficient. They played in infantry and plodded their way into critical areas inhabited by Rescue and EME types. Ham base stations and mobiles were quickly dispatched to local hospitals like Wake, Rex and Dix. All agreed that hams are here to stay and there IS a difference in the modes operations of hams and CB'ers. Major lessons learned included that hams are ready when needed.



LOOKing Back 10 Years

From the October 1995 Exciter

There is a new repeater in the Fayetteville area. The Sand Hills Amateur Radio Association proudly presents the 146.805 machine in Hope Mills, NC. The machine is a liberal one which boasts an open autopatch.



Near Space Balloon Project

Is anyone in the club interested in, or already active in, a near space balloon project? I've seen several mentioned in QST/CQ and others recently, including a recent one to establish a Wi-Fi router at 100,000 ft. It looks like the kind of project that our collective skills could accomplish and learn from.

K3SPC Joe Snyder jsnyder@trellis.com

NET REPORTS FOR August 2005

8:00pm DAILY: RARS Evening Net

**Participants 411
Traffic 31/29
Time 803 minutes
Sessions 31**

**8:30pm SAT: Tech & Traders Net
9:00pm MON: SWL/SIG**

**Participants 50
Traffic 0/0
Time 410 Minutes
Sessions 9**

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Fletch	N4JZO	10/02
Jay	KM4EP	10/02
Karl	K4LNX	10/03
Matt	W2BYV	10/04
Rod	AB4RG	10/05
Dale	W4AUV	10/05
Kathleen	KA2SBC	10/06
Mike	W3IJD	10/08
Mike	K4PSP	10/09
Rick	KA3PSK	10/09
Betty	KE4NDR	10/10
Frank	KY4W	10/11
Richard	KB4TKQ	10/15
Tim	W4NOT	10/17
Skip	N6LUZ	10/18
Mike	K4DRT	10/19
Ken	N4VQO	10/19
Gil	KG4YJG	10/20
Joey	KE4DRJ	10/21
Gary	KN4AQ	10/22
Vince	WA2SRZ	10/28
Ken	KD4JMK	10/29

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for July 2005

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on July 19, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Andy Peterson, NI4S, Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Denyse Walter, K4DAW, Jim Walter, K4FIJ, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, Mary Holtschnieder, KG4OQA, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Bernard Blackmon, W4BRB, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and second by Chuck K4HF, the June Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports

Dick W8HYD provided the Vice President's report.

The Technician class will end this coming Saturday.

There are 18 students ready to take the test.

Committee Reports

Exciter – Denyse K4DAW will be asking members for technical articles to include in the club's newsletter.

PIO – Gary KN4AQ reported there was good publicity for this year's field day activities. He will bring a video summary of field day for the August meeting which will include the various clips of local news coverage. Gary also reported on the ARRL coverage of RARSfest activities and of an article provided by Virginia Enzor, NC4VA and her daughter Courtney, K14HOS.

FM – Bernard W4BRB advised there has been no progress made on the 220 repeater. There is a new 900 MHz repeater in the area. It's located on the D H Hill library on the NC State University campus. The output frequency is 927.5125.

Nets – Mary KG4OQA advised the nets are going well.

Webmaster – Jon KG4ZVT reported that progress continues to be made in updating the RARS website. The latest membership roster has been uploaded to the site.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised the hamfest workers' party was held at Lake Wheeler Park on July 9. There was a good turn out and everyone had a good time. The Cary hamfest occurred this past weekend with no admission being charged this year.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC reported that there were 8 hams who helped out with the July 4th Firecracker bike ride. There were nearly 1000 riders for this event and our help was appreciated. The Pigskin Preview is coming up on August 13 and Dick will be coordinating this event. An email was sent by Bruce Arnold, N8UTY, advising that half of the hams needed for the MS150 have signed up so far. This event will be held in New Bern on September 10 and 11. Dick advised he has made contact with the Autism Ribbon Run event manager in response to their request for communications support for their October 8 event. A coordinator for this event is needed.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF advised that the club's special service designation is in the process of being renewed. He also reported there were positive comments for the ARRL during the Dayton hamfest.

Ad Hoc – there has been no activity by the nominating committee towards the replacement of the public service director's position.

Unfinished Business

Dick W8HYD will make the honorary membership certificates for Bob and Marian Breyer (K1RCB and K1MRB) and send them to their new location in Indiana.

No contact has been made with Bruce Buck, KC4UQN, concerning his missing extension cord. Dick W8HYD will attempt to call Bruce and advise him to purchase a replacement.

Dick W8HYD reported that he had picked up the Ten Tec HF radio, power supply, microphone, portable antenna and antenna tuner donated by Mort Shaw, W4MJN. He will keep the equipment until used by the education committee.

There was no follow up with Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, concerning the club's asset inventory list. Dick KD4ISC will check the Secretary's cabinet for a list and Jim K4FIJ will contact Jeff to ask about the history of the inventory.

New Business

Andy NI4S read a thank you letter from Steve, KZ2I, the winner of the Single Operator Low Power Roanoke Division winner's plaque for the 2004 ARRL Sweepstakes. RARS sponsors the plaque for this event.

The nominating committee is looking for help in suggesting candidates for this year's Board positions that are open for election. The committee would like to have a list of candidates to announce at the October general meeting. Jim K4FIJ volunteered to join Chuck K4HF and Andy NI4S on this committee.

Treasurer's Report

Greg KE4PAX advised that of the 277 2004/05 RARS members, 188 have renewed so far.

New Business continued

The group discussed a recent announcement provided by Max Bloodworth, KO4TV, about a local ham in need of financial help. This ham and his wife have had serious medical problems and are in need of financial support for housing and food. The group decided to announce the needs of this ham on the nets and to take a collection of food and money at the next RARS meeting. Dick W8HYD will follow up with Max on transferring the goods collected at the meeting.

General Comments

Jon KG4ZVT advised he needs to be added to the RARS Board email list.

Hank K4HM asked for information on Frank Lynch's (W4FAL) recent surgery. Gary KN4AQ provided an update. Dick KD4ISC advised a get well card had been sent to Frank on behalf of the club.

Dick W8HYD reported that the August general meeting program would be on the recent 10-10 conference that he attended. Gary KN4AQ will also show his field day video.

Bernard W4BRB advised Danny Musten, KD4RAA, would be a good contact for those wanting more information on the D H Hill 900 MHz repeater.

Greg KE4PAX reported that he has been receiving 2 to 3 membership renewals per day.

Denyse K4DAW advised there would be no membership cards provided unless specifically requested by individual members.

Dick KD4ISC announced he would not be at the August general meeting and asked for help taking those minutes. Jim K4FIJ volunteered to help out. Dick also asked if Bob Breyer's (K1RCB) at-large Board position would be filled. Discussion followed. The bylaws do not require such a replacement and the general thought was to leave the position vacant until the next election.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

North Carolina Amateur Radio Operators



Raleigh, NC. Sept 1, 2005. North Carolina Amateur Radio Operators demonstrated emergency communications in the state capital as part of "Ready North Carolina." The event was part of National Preparedness Month, sponsored by Homeland Security and the American Red Cross. NC Section PIC Bill Morine N2COP, Wake County ARES Assistant EC Bob Conder K4RLC, and PIO Gary Pearce KN4AQ, set up a working HF/VHF station next to exhibits from other state agencies with an emergency preparedness theme. The station drew extra attention because ham radio had just been featured on several area television newscasts in connection with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, which had been underway for three days.



At Left: Bob K4RLC & Bill N2COP in tent and showing guests how amateur radio works.

Photos by Gary KN4AQ



FAIR BOOTH IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIF



Mary KG4OQA with guests at the fair booth

The amateur radio clubs of Orange County, California, collaborate every year on organizing and staffing a county fair booth devoted to educating the public about amateur radio. The fair, which is held every July, draws thousands of people. For the past four years, I have had the privilege of volunteering at the booth for an afternoon or more as I have had California meetings coincide with the fair dates.



Mary KG4OQA with Suzy West N6GLF

Through the efforts of many, including Gordon West WB6NOA, the booth is decorated according to the fair theme and features a variety of radio equipment, amateur television, and information on local radio clubs and how to become licensed. There is also the very popular Morse code table where people can learn to spell their names in Morse code and receive a certificate of accomplishment! Each day a different local radio club takes responsibility for staffing the booth.

Visitors to the booth generally have a lot of similar questions. Some have had a relative who was a ham, while others have no idea what amateur radio is. I even encountered some teenagers this year who had never heard of Morse code. Basically, this booth is a great way to showcase the many aspects of amateur radio, whether it be Morse code, emergency communications, HF, amateur television, VHF, etc. I thoroughly enjoy volunteering each year at the fair. The atmosphere is festive and lively, and it is wonderful to be able to talk to the general public about all the things that we do with amateur radio.



Photos by Mr & Mrs West

Mary KG4OQA with WB6NOA Gordon West

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for September 2005

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on September 6, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.

Steven Schucker, Bill Hiltenbrand N9JLP, Greg Hamilton KI4LDO and Robin Lane KI4LEC were welcomed as guests to the meeting.

Andy NI4S announced that RARS was collecting non-perishable food for a local ham family in need of assistance. The hat was passed to collect money which would be given along with the food items.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC, reported on the following public service ham activities:

- Local hams will be helping with the MS150 bicycle event this weekend (September 10 and 11) in New Bern. Turnout has been good and any last minute volunteers should contact Bruce at n8uty@arrl.net.
 - The Autism Ribbon Run will be held in downtown Raleigh on October 8. Ron Ford W4RJF is coordinating this event and looking for volunteers. Contact Ron at w4rjf@nc.rr.com.
 - Hams and non-hams are needed to staff the Red Cross base station at the NC State Fair on October 14 – 23. A coordinator is needed. Anyone interested in volunteering or coordinating can contact Dick at kd4isc@arrl.net.
- The following events are being coordinated by Bill Cole KG4CXY who can be contacted via the www.hampublicservice.org website.
- There is a Diabetes walk being held in RTP on September 10 at 8:30am.
 - The Duke Liver Triathlon will be held on Sunday, September 11 beginning at 6:30am.
 - The Light the Night walk in RTP will be held on Thursday, September 15 at 5:30pm. A coordinator as well as volunteers are needed for this event.
 - The Light the Night walk in downtown Raleigh will be held on Saturday, September 24 at 5:30pm. A coordinator and volunteers are needed for this event.
 - The Duke Blue Devil Ironman Triathlon will be held on Saturday, October 8 beginning at 6:30am. Lots of hams are needed for this event.
 - The Inside-Out 10K run will be held on Sunday, October 23 beginning at 7am. A coordinator as well as volunteers are need for this one as well.

Dick then provided a brief overview of the responsibilities of a coordinator for a public service event and offered to assist anyone interested in giving it a try. He then recognized Bill KG4CXY, Anne KG4SWF, De-

nyse K4DAW and Jim K4FIJ for their work in providing communications support for the August 13 Pigskin Preview.

Hank Montgomery, K4HM, advised next year's RARSfest will be on April 23. Committee meetings will begin soon and anyone interested in helping with the fest are invited to contact Hank and attend.

Joe Snyder, K3SPC, was recognized and given the floor. Joe told the group of his interest in attempting a near space balloon launch which would incorporate amateur radio. Anyone interested in trying such a launch is invited to contact Joe via the RARS email list.

Greg Seamster, KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report and advised there are 231 members of RARS. The cash assets of the club were announced and Greg offered to answer any questions concerning the report.

Tom Brown, N4TAB, provided a brief ARES update. He reported that we should all check the readiness of our 'go' kits so that we will be prepared when called upon. Tom also advised that those interested in volunteering for hurricane Katrina communication support should not self deploy. Volunteers should make their availability known through links on the ARRL website.

David Crawford, KF4VXJ, advised the group on the many functions he performs as an ARES Logistics AEC. He announced that several items donated for 'go' kits were available at the back table for members to take.

The floor was turned over to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, who provided video reports of local news coverage of amateur radio's involvement in the hurricane Katrina disaster. This was followed by a video of the talk given by Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH at the Dayton Hamfest.

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, announced that the 126 Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association would be meeting in Durham this Saturday (September 10).

Door prizes were won by: Bonnie "No-call-yet" and WA9SZL.

Attendance: 48

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

Traffic, What Traffic?

by Joe – W4TTO

Well, certainly not the rush hour automobile traffic a lot of us experience each day in and around Raleigh. I'm referring to Amateur Radio's "National Traffic System" (NTS for short). The purpose of NTS is to systematically move messages from origin to destination via amateur radio. This is extremely important during times of emergencies when other modes of communications are knocked out or significantly impacted. For one reason or another, ham radio always comes through when other communication vehicles fail. Although rather simple, sending and receiving messages follow a strict format, which is contained in what is commonly known as a Radiogram. The reason for this is to insure that the message received at its final destination is exactly the same as when it was originally sent. It guarantees that no words or numbers are dropped, transposed, or misspelled. A complete write up on NTS can be viewed and/or downloaded from the ARRL website under Public Service.

The reason for this article is to encourage hams that are unfamiliar in the skill of traffic handling to consider learning this vital aspect of amateur radio operation. One of the most effective ways of learning this skill that I know of is through the RARS supported NTS Traffic Training Program. This "over the air" learning exercise was mainly created by our very own Jeff Wittich (AC4ZO) along with the help of other area hams. The exercise involves an instructor who sends training messages and a student who receives the messages and copies them to paper or even a personal computer. Each training message sent is actually a message within a message that explains a particular aspect of traffic handling and message format. There are a total of 123 training messages, a basic traffic section and an advanced section. If the student completes receiving and recording all 123 messages, Jeff presents the student with a certificate of completion, which is suitable for framing. The certificate will make a nice addition to any shack. I know because my certificate is hanging on the wall in my shack.

NTS traffic (Radiograms) are sent on both HF nets and VHF nets. HF nets are used for sending traffic out of the region, state, or even cross-country. Whereas the VHF nets handle more localized traffic like the Raleigh area and surrounding towns and counties. This area's VHF traffic net is the Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, or "PCTN" for short and can be found on the 146.88 repeater. The net meets every night at 9:00pm and check-ins are always welcomed. The net's regular check-ins and net manager Mike, AD4MP are always encouraging more participation and volunteers to handle local traffic. So, if you are interested in acquiring the skill of traffic handling, just check-in to the 8:00pm RARS 2-Meter Net and inform Net Control your desire. Net Control will then pair you up with an instructor and send you off to another repeater frequency or simplex frequency. There are several area NTS training instructors that are always willing to help and are usually available during the RARS 2-Meter Net. The instructors are:

Dick (KD4ISC), Bob (WX4MMM), Denyse (K4DAW), and Joe (W4TTO).

Until next time, 73

Joe

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

James KG4ISM
Bonnie
Bill N9JLP
Cecil KG4OQC

This section could be yours. Please send article to Exciter Editor.

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Safe and Proper Operation of Emergency Generators

The weather events of the past decade have brought to our attention the need for many of us to obtain gasoline powered, emergency AC Power generators. The prices are reasonable for the average five kilowatt output units and have made them, for the first time in history, an item that is within the reach of most American families. However, all too often this life and lifestyle saver becomes a life ender due to unsafe operation of the generator.

How can they be unsafe? After all, it is just a riding lawn mower motor that makes enough power to keep the lights on, the fridge cold and the well pump running, right? Wrong!! Any generator powered by an internal combustion engine can cause injury or death, if any of the following items are ignored.

Poor generator placement:

The carbon monoxide in the exhaust gases is the greatest danger. Do not operate any gasoline generator within an enclosed space without installing an outside vent pipe for exhaust gases. Opening the garage door is not a option because the wind can blow directly into the open door, forcing exhaust gasses back into your home.

Serious burns and fires:

Adults, children, and pets can and have been burned by contact with hot exhaust mufflers and other generator parts. House fires have been caused by attempts to refuel generators while they were running, or before they had enough time to cool down. Allow at least three feet (six feet on the exhaust side) of distance between the generator and any combustible items. Also, before opening the generator fuel tank or your refueling container you should touch the generator frame with your bare hands. This is to prevent flash fires caused by body static spark discharges. Extra fuel should be stored in sealed approved containers in a separate location from the generator. All electrical extension cords from the generator should be less than twenty five feet long, and use three number twelve or larger gauge wires. This is to prevent fires from overheated cords.

Electrical safety:

Never connect your power generator to your home electrical panel without having an automatic or manual transfer/disconnect switch. This is to prevent backfeeding the power company's lines, causing injury or death to power company crews that are trying to restore your power. It also protects your home and your generator from major damage, when the power is restored. Your generator frame should be earth grounded, in the same manner as your amateur radio station.

Common sense:

Become a "kilowatt cop"! Five kilowatts is not Progress power! Use only the power that need. This is emergency power and it comes with an emergency price tag. These generators burn roughly one gallon of gas for each hour of full load operation. This means that it costs fifty cents for each kilowatt hour of use at two dollars and fifty cents per gallon of gasoline. Progress energy charges only eight cents per kilowatt hour. By following these simple safety rules and proper preparation we can use our gasoline power generators during any weather emergency in comfort.

Johnnie C. Mayfield WA9SZL
Wendell, NC.



VACATION TIME

On vacation at the beach, Bob K4RLC managed to keep close to the family, Lauren & Bobbie, while having fun with QRP CW. With 0.7 watts into a 48-inch whip antenna, he managed several QRP CW contacts on 20 meters, even during a contest. The best was with Gary CU2JT in the Azores. That's over 7,000 miles per watt!

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MEET THE MEMBERS



Name: Hank Montgomery
Callsign: K4HM – Previously WN4EXQ (1973) & WB4EXQ (1974-1997)
Residence: Fuquay-Varina, NC
Previous Residences::
 Louisville, KY 1945 –1983
 Pelham, AL 1984-1990
 Nashville, TN 1991-1994
 Hoover AL 1995– 1999
Equipment Currently Owned:
 ICOM 706-MK2G HF/VHF/UHF XCVR
 Kenwood TS330S HF XCVR (SK last month)
 ICOM 208H dual band mobile (as base)
 Vertex VS-150 HT VHF
 Yaesu FT-8500 dual band mobile
 Yaesu FT-470 dual band HT
 Various scopes, TNC's, keys, & JUNQUE
 Enaough computers to start a processing shop

Other hobbies:

Computers. I have 4-5 networked computers at any given time. I love to fish, anytime, anywhere, no matter what the weather.

When and why I became a ham:

In summer of 1973 had to complete some Bellsouth electronics courses to bid on a job I wanted. When I completed the courses I realized I liked this stuff and decided to get my Amateur Radio license. A couple of friends were hams and members of a local club and told me they had just started a novice class the week before. I ran out to the local Tandy Radio Shack and got an LP album of code practice and within a week was able to pass the Novice code test. Passing the code test allowed the instructor to send off for the Novice test from the FCC. It arrived a couple of weeks later and was administered by the class instructor. These tests were top-secret stuff back then – the instructor was not allowed to look at the exam. He handed me the sealed envelope as it had arrived from the FCC. The instructor then monitored from across the room as I opened the envelope, took the test, and resealed it in the envelope. The instructor then signed a statement on the envelope that he had not seen the contents and sent the sealed envelope back to the FCC and I waited about a month for the license to arrive.

Over the next 2 years I upgraded through General, Advanced, and Extra as well as getting a commercial radio license in order to work in Ma Bell's radio maintenance shop.

After accepting an early retirement offer in 1999 I went looking for computer support work and wound up coming to the hot-bed of technology known as The Triangle. The first night I got into Raleigh – before I even met my new employer – I was welcomed to the area by participants on the nightly net on 64. That night I got email from several club members welcoming me to the area and offering welcome information and advise. That was the Sunday before JARSFEST 1999 and later that week I heard a ham on the repeater say he wanted to go to the hamfest but had no transportation. I called him and informed him that I wanted to go to the hamfest but had no directions and offered to trade a ride for a navigator. He was the first ham I 'eyeballed' in Raleigh – KC4WUH – now AI4KR.

I went to the next RARS meeting – December of 1999 – where I became a member and have been active with the club since that time. I have served as RARSFest chairman from 2001 through 2005 and currently belong to 4 other Ham clubs in the area.

Other credentials:

RARSFest Chairman 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
Past Secretary Birmingham Amateur Radio Club (BARC) 1998 & 1999
Past Board of Directors - BARC 1997
Past President Shelby County Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) 1996 & 1997
Past President Kentuckiana Radio Club (KRC) – 1975 & 1976

Pigskin Preview



Annie KF4SWI on the left was in the registration booth, Bill KG4CXY with an announcer was in the pressbox, and Dick KD4ISC shadowed the field coordinator for the Pigskin Preview at Carter Finley Stadium on August 13.

Photos by Denyse K4DAW